



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF  
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

June 13, 2012

Jeff Marszal  
7803 Beaver Creek Road  
Paulina, Oregon 97751-9706

Re: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency comments on the Ochoco National Forest Jackson Vegetation Management Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (EPA Project Number: 10-060-AFS).

Dear Mr. Marszal:

The EPA has reviewed the Project's FEIS in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In our February 2, 2012 letter<sup>1</sup> we assigned a Lack of Objections rating to the Draft EIS. We recognized that moving toward the historic range of variability in this project area was consistent with full protection of the environment and noted our belief that the Project Design Features are appropriate. We also encouraged the inclusion of citations related to shade and/or stream temperature response from broadleaf enhancements and pursuit of the Draft EIS's proposed temperature monitoring.

We appreciate the FEIS's response to our recommendation for citations supporting shade and temperature response from broadleaf enhancement. We recognize that broadleaf communities are important components of riparian areas not just for shade, but for many other values as well. Your summary and citations regarding these values on FEIS p. 395 is informative. Your citations regarding aspen regeneration from conifer removal further support the EIS's assumption that broadleaf species will indeed benefit from the proposed activities. As for specific citations supporting shade and temperature response from broadleaf enhancement, you have noted and we agree that there is a data/knowledge gap in the literature.

We appreciate that the Record of Decision incorporates the EIS's proposed temperature monitoring. We believe that this monitoring will help address the data/knowledge gap on shade and stream temperature response from broadleaf enhancements specifically, and active management in riparian areas generally.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://yosemite.epa.gov/oeca/webeis.nsf/\(PDFView\)/20120000/\\$file/20120000.PDF?OpenElement](http://yosemite.epa.gov/oeca/webeis.nsf/(PDFView)/20120000/$file/20120000.PDF?OpenElement)

If you have any questions regarding the EPA's comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by electronic mail at [reichgott.christine@epa.gov](mailto:reichgott.christine@epa.gov), or, Erik Peterson of my staff at (206) 553-6382 or [peterson.erik@epa.gov](mailto:peterson.erik@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Reichgott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit